

## **Notes from the Panhandle Forest Collaborative Meeting on the Buckskin Saddle IRP**

Meeting was at the Sandpoint RD from about 1 pm to 3 pm on October 18, 2017

Attendees: Erick Walker, Liz Johnson-Gebhart, Brad Smith, Peg Polichio, Ed Koberstein, Sammy Brown, Jeff Connolly, Bob Boeh, Phil Hough, Laura Wolf, Erin Mader.

Notes: Brad Smith facilitated during the meeting. The first item he brought up was a question to the PFC group in regard to how folks felt about the FS investigating the need to do fuel treatments in the Schafer IRA within the Community Protection Zone. After some discussion, it seemed that the PFC group was supportive of that idea. Brad indicated that eventually, PFC would like to see a map of the CPZ in and around the Schafer IRA.

Jeff Connolly brought up the rather poor condition of the 2711 road that goes from the Granite Creek area to Kilroy Bay and the potential need to improve that road for safety (egress/ingress during wildfires and also for potential haul roads to facilitate logging for fuel).

Jeff Connolly mentioned that he would like to see the FS consider expanding the clearing on the BPA powerlines and/or doing adjacent fuel treatment activities to decrease fire hazard to the lines. Brad mentioned that maybe rather than increasing the completely cleared area, we could consider adjacent forest thinning or other Rx's to decrease fuels without increasing the width of the clearings.

The group got into a lengthy discussion about the construction of new roads to access the timber stands in need of treatments. In general, it seemed folks were most concerned with what would happen to the roads after they were used for the immediate stand treatment activities- i.e., would they stay open, be closed to motorized use, be stored, decommissioned, etc? PFC folks seemed to be supportive of the FS to at least develop some initial proposals that would include new permanent and temp road construction. Jeff mentioned that he certainly wanted the FS to do as much road maintenance/improvement work on existing roads as possible.

Peg brought up the topic of forest resiliency toward wildfire and I&D's and whether or not that should be a focus of the project and it seemed all agreed on that. Jeff and Liz talked about the strong need to bring the motorized recreation folks along during the planning of the project.

Brad brought up the question to PFC members regarding silvicultural prescriptions and aggregate tree retention. There was a discussion about the bottom canyon project and how the FS did some of that aggregate tree retention for that project and how it seemed to be something that PFC should consider for this project as far as making a recommendation to the FS to incorporate it if possible. There was some discussion about whether or not that approach can work given the fire susceptible species that might need to be left and the need for Rx burning after the tree harvesting and the concern about burning up the retention patches.

Bob Boeh brought up the topic of how long the contract/agreement should be for in this project and he encouraged folks to consider the "4FRI" approach of having long stewardship contracts come out of a NEPA analysis. Bob said he would do some research on that for the next meeting.

The meeting ended around 1500 hours. These notes were taken by Dave Cobb (team leader).